

BANDO, T.
Appln. No.: 10/781,868

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2008. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 15-19, 21-24 are pending. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 15-19, 21-24 stand rejected in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended. Claims 3-4, 10, 13-14 and 20 have been cancelled.

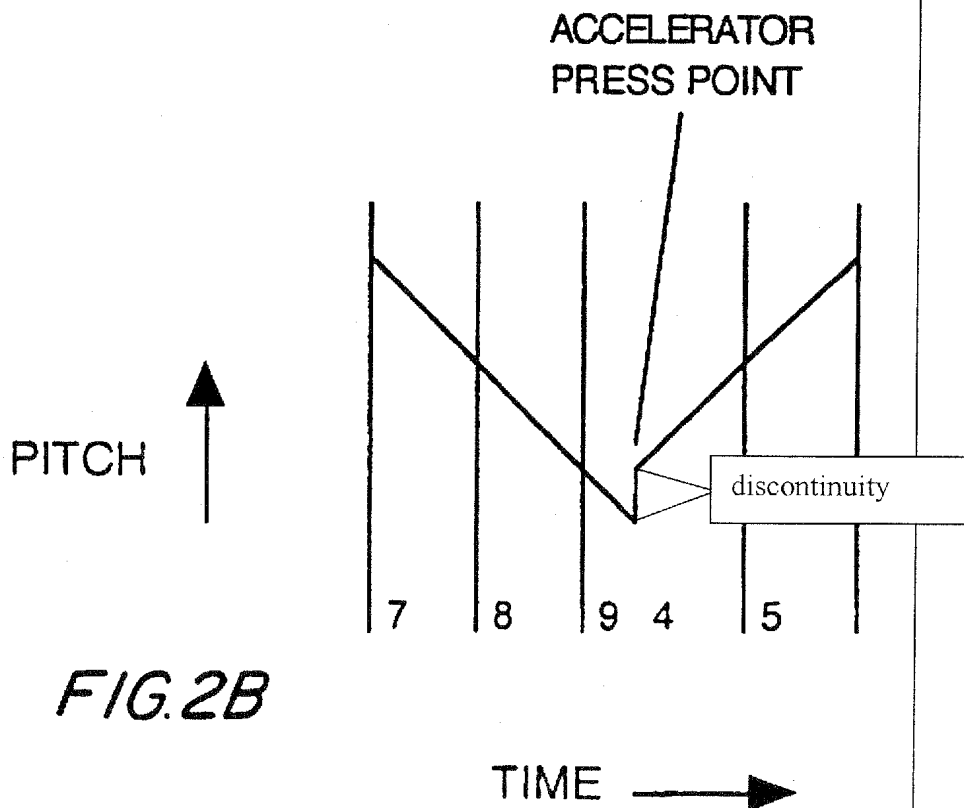
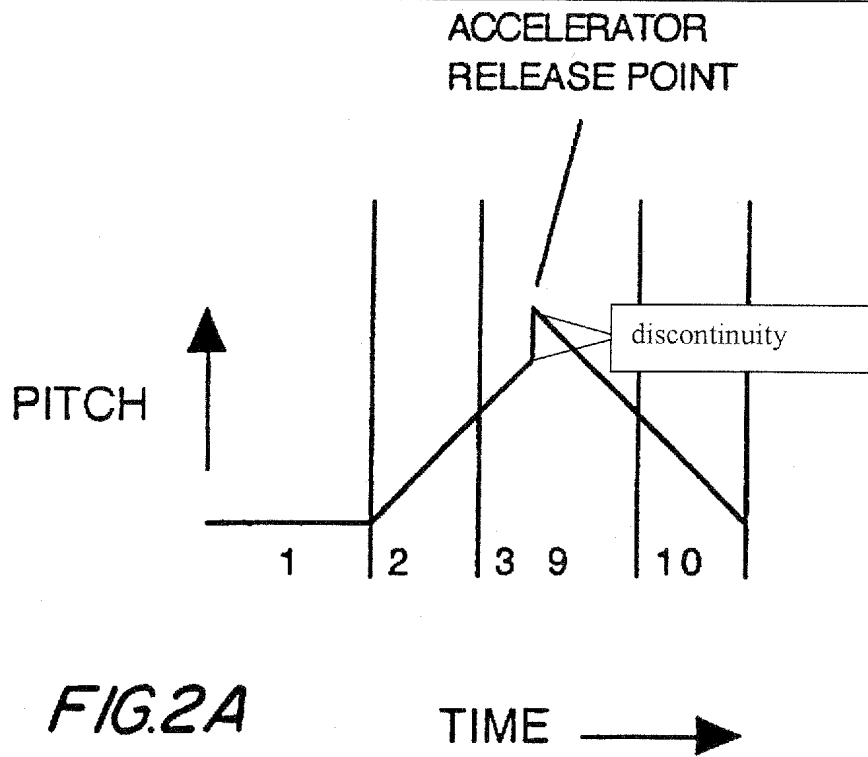
The rejection of independent claim 1 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Truchsess (US 5,734,726) in view of Comair et al. (US 2003/0045956) is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites the limitation “so that the sound data read by the sound data reading section is a waveform containing no discontinuity points”. It is respectfully submitted that Truchsess in view of Comair lacks this feature.

The amendment (basically incorporating the limitations of claims 3 and 4 into claim 1 and further including “so that the sound data read by the sound data reading section is a waveform containing no discontinuity points”) represents the embodiment shown in Fig. 9 of the specification. More specifically, when the game vehicle is in an acceleration phase and a deceleration input is received by the player, then the program, based on the current speed $v1$, reads a deceleration sound data read position corresponding to $v1$, which corresponds to a position where reproduction of the acceleration sound data is stopped. Subsequently, sound data is read from the deceleration sound storage section sequentially starting from the above deceleration sound data read position. Therefore, the total sound data waveform is continuous, lacking any discontinuity points at the change of pace points.

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In contrast, in the system of Truchsess, when the pace of the game vehicle is changed, for example, from acceleration to deceleration, the program looks to find a deceleration sound that is the closest to the acceleration sound just before the acceleration stopped. The system then reads the deceleration sounds sequentially from the deceleration sound that was the closest. This inherently causes a discontinuity in the sound waveform at the change of pace point (see, for example, Figs. 2A and 2B reproduced below with additional comment to identify the discontinuity).



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For the above reasons, claim 1 is allowable. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claims 11 and 21 containing limitations similar to those in claim 1 be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 5-9, 12, 15-19, 22-24, all dependent from claim 1 or 11 or 21, also be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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